

Title : Need for early completion of Water Projects to solve acute drinking water problem in Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa-Laid.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : Dhenkanal and Angut, the DHQ towns of Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency in Central Orissa, have been suffering from acute shortage of water for the expanding municipalities and growing population. Government of India in 1996-97 has sanctioned two projects of Rs.13.59 crores and Rs.15 crores respectively under HUDCO Finance (Loan) and State Government assistance. The Orissa Sewerage Board was to be the executing agency.

While a part of the loan amount has been released in January 1997, the project have yet to commence. The water situation in both these towns is precarious this year especially after the devastation of the super cyclone 1999 where the environment and tree cover has been totally destroyed. The State Government of Orissa is unable to put up the margin money as State Government's assistance to the scheme due to resource crunch.

The Central Government which has set up a Task Force for tackling the problems of relief, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction is urged to assist the State Government in commissioning and completing the project in this financial year to solve the acute water crisis.